

Voices for Nature

18–19th November 2011

This is the third in our series of events, which bring together a broad alliance of individuals who in their personal and professional lives draw creative inspiration from the birds, wildlife and landscapes of this country. The group includes writers, scientists, visual artists, musicians, conservationists and academics who meet:

- to emphasise the sheer diversity of responses to the natural world and ways of placing value on it, beyond the narrowly econometric;
- to challenge the low priority placed nationally and politically on these key cultural assets ; and
- to make productive links with other individuals and organizations with similar purposes.

Hence the title of this third meeting: we seek to champion our national heritage and also to explore the different media through which it can be understood, represented and celebrated, including for the first time an innovative session on sound and music.

The November 2011 meeting represents an extension of our activities so far in that, for the first time, the full day's programme at Stamford on Friday 18th November will be followed by a further half-day on the morning of Saturday 19th November at nearby Helpston, the birthplace of John Clare, around whose work that morning's meeting will be planned, on the general theme of landscape and loss.

New Networks for Nature is a wholly voluntary organization, founded by Tim Birkhead, Mark Cocker, John Fanshawe and Jeremy Mynott, now supported by a working-group consisting also of Carry Akroyd, John Barlow, Paul Jepson, Harriet Mead, Rob Lambert, Stephen Moss and Mike Toms.

This year's programme has been organized by Carry Akroyd, Tim Birkhead and Jeremy Mynott.



Programme

Friday 18th November 2011 **Stamford Arts Centre**

09.30 arrivals, coffee

10.00–10.15 Introduction and welcome – Carry Akroyd

10.15–11.30 Session 1 Birds in literature and science (Chair: Jeremy Mynott)

10.15–10.45 Keynote speaker: Ruth Padel (poet and writer) 'Where do you come from, Where do you belong? Migrating birds and what they say to us'

10.45–11.00 Patricia Brekke (zoologist) 'Hihi: Sex, inbreeding and conservation'

11.00–11.20 Tim Birkhead (scientist and author) 'What it's like to be a Bird'

11.20–11.30 Discussion

11.30–11.40 short break

11.40–12.45 Session 2 Living the past, creating the future (Chair: Stephen Moss)

11.40–11.55 Richard Hines (author) 'Kes and me'

11.55–12.10 Ceri Levy (film-maker) 'Ghosts of gone birds'

12.10–12.30 Pete Cairns (photographer) '20-20'

12.30–12.45 Discussion

12.45–14.00 lunch break, displays

14.00–15.15 Session 3 Creative flow: watery landscapes (Chair: Carry Akroyd)

14.00–14.15 Tim Collins (conservation professional) 'Adapting to coastal change: how do we do it?'

14.15–14.30 Julian Meredith (visual artist and print-maker) 'Fish, bird, animal'

14.30–14.45 Clive Cummins (independent ecologist) 'Newts: will they be missed?'

14.45–15.00 Anna Kirk Smith (visual artist) 'Saline collaborations'

15.00–15.15 Discussion

15.15–15.45 tea break

15.45–16.45 Session 4 Field music: birdsong, sound and conservation (Chair: Rob St John)

This session will explore the possibilities to reinvigorate and extend bird conservation offered by the use of sound. It will involve short presentations, a panel discussion and some live music.

Geoff Sample (sound recordist)

Dan Haywood (musician)

Hanna Tuulikki (artist and musician)

16.45 -17.15 Session 5 (Chair Mark Cocker)

16.45-17.00 General discussion of the day

17.00-17.15 'Conclusion and thanks' Mark Cocker



Saturday 19th November 2011
Helpston Church, 10.00–13.00
Landscape and loss: inspirations from John Clare

09.30 arrivals

10.00–11.05 Session 1 (Chair: John Fanshawe)

10.00–10.10 Jeremy Mynott (author, publisher) 'Wonder'

10.10–10.30 Carry Akroyd (visual artist) 'Birds with everything in John Clare'

10.30–10.50 Richard Astle (Langdyke Trust) 'Restoring lost landscapes of John Clare'

10.50–11.05 Jonathan Elphick (author), 'Landscape, memory, loss'

11.05 –11.20 Discussion and break

11.20–12.40 Session 2 (Chair: Rob Lambert)

11.20–11.40 Hayden Lorimer (academic, cultural geography) 'Scarecrows'

11.40–12.00 Katrina Porteous (poet and author) 'From Swordy Well to Beadnell Green'

12.00–12.40 David Morley (poet, critic and ecologist) 'Birds, Romani and Poetry: a reading with birdsong'

12.40–12.50 'Wrap up and conclusion' Tim Birkhead



Making your booking

The charge for attendance is £30, regardless of how many sessions you choose to attend and whether you come for one day or two; this will also cover all refreshments (coffee, lunch and tea).

To make a booking please telephone the Stamford Arts Centre on 01780 763203. They will accept cash, cheques or credit card bookings. Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's St, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2DL (www.stamfordartscentre.com).

We urge you to book as soon as possible since the numbers that can be accommodated at the venues are necessarily limited and we shall in addition be advertising this meeting to other interested wildlife and conservation bodies who may wish to send representatives or encourage attendance from their own members.

Stamford is close to the A1 and is on an E/W rail route near to Peterborough.

We shall be circulating further details of the locations and other practical information in a later email-out.

If you have any queries about the facilities at the venue then staff at the Stamford Arts Centre Box Office will be able to help.

If you have any other queries about the event please email info@newnetworksfornature.org.uk

